

## INNOCENT CONVICT FREED BY A DREAM

STRANGER TROUBLED BY VISION IS MOVED TO SECURE A PARDON.

### SEES ANOTHER DO MURDER

Incident of Severed Right Hand Sent to Faithless Wife Had Impressed Him — Tragic Answer to Divorce.

San Antonio, Tex.—Pardoned from a penitentiary life sentence because of a dream—which is the romantic circumstance surrounding the release of George W. Jones from the Texas state prison at Huntsville, where he was incarcerated 11 years ago on the charge of murdering a woman.

Jones maintained his innocence of the crime, setting forth that he was at all times devoted to his wife and had never associated with other women. For about a year Mrs. Jones was a frequent caller at the prison. It was the one bright spot in Jones' prison life—these visits from his wife.

But there came a time when the visits were not so frequent. Jones pined, but his wife explained that she feared to gain the displeasure of the prison officials.

One day after the visits had slackened there came a civil officer to the prison with a divorce summons for Jones.

"Here is a paper for you," said the officer.

Jones' heart fluttered—probably that faithful wife of his had secured him a pardon.

He glanced at it hurriedly—he could read its meaning.

Catching up the hatchet with which he had been working, he severed his right hand at the wrist, and with his left he handed the amputated limb to the deputy sheriff, saying:

"Take this back to my wife and tell her it is my answer to her divorce petition—my good right hand, a hand that has never committed a crime, but has worked all these years for her support."

The divorce was granted and the wife soon married again—married a



"Take This Back to My Wife."

man whom she left in Huntsville where she was living to be near her lover husband.

Jones' wounded arm healed after a painful siege, but he always mourned for his wife, and often in the night the guards on their rounds would hear him sobbing her name.

And now for the strange part of the story.

J. H. Waldrip, who lives at Chester, Tex., and who ten years ago read newspaper accounts of how Jones had chopped his hand off, dreamed a few weeks ago of the affair. He also saw in his dream, the murder of the woman, saw the tragedy enacted, he relates, as plainly as though he had been an actual eye-witness.

Waldrip was so impressed with his dream that he felt called upon to study the case. He neglected his own business and delved into the records. He interviewed the prosecuting attorney in the case. He sought the trial judge, long since retired, and begged him for assistance in freeing Jones.

At first Waldrip's dream was looked upon as a joke. His friends feared for his sanity. But he kept persistently at his task, and at last attracted more or less of a following. Little by little the tangled skein was unwound, and now through the dream of Waldrip, a total stranger, the governor of Texas and the pardon board have set free Convict Jones.

Bereft of the wife for whose love he sacrificed his right hand, Jones has sought seclusion on a ranch near San Antonio, where he says he shall remain.

## SHE CATCHES BURGLAR BY HER POLITENESS

SUAVITY AND STRENGTH OF PLUCKY WOMAN LAND THIEF IN JAIL.

New York.—A burglar who was trapped by Mrs. Mollie Brown in her apartment on Court street, Brooklyn, the other day, had never a chance at escape. First he was overwhelmed with politeness and then awed by a display of force on the part of the young and pretty widow.

Mrs. Brown had been downstairs visiting with other members of her family, and when she returned to her apartment locked herself in by the parlor door. Walking back to the dining room, her footfalls stilled by the heavy rug, she was startled to find a man collecting the silverware.

In her pliest manner, as though welcoming some favored caller, Mrs.



You'll Stay Right Where You Are Until the Police Come."

Brown spoke to the burglar and invited him in. The man jumped at the sound of her voice and faced Mrs. Brown, who smiled sweetly. The burglar was nonplussed. Like an embarrassed schoolboy he stood nervous, twisting his hat, which he had taken off his head.

"I was just looking for a furnished room," he finally stammered.

"Oh, yes, we have some furnished rooms and would be glad to let them. Please you sit down until I call my maid."

The burglar sank into a chair and remained there until Mrs. Brown's maid for her mother had been answered by Miss Rose Molinari, a cousin, and Dorothy, a younger sister.

"Go downstairs and call the police," Mrs. Brown told her sister.

The frightened girl ran downstairs screaming. The burglar jumped to his feet.

"Here this thing has gone far enough," he said gruffly. "Stand aside and let me out of here."

"You'll stay right where you are until the police come," declared Mrs. Brown, her manner also changing and her voice taking on a tone of command.

"Get out of my way or you'll regret it," said the burglar, making a menacing move toward his hip pocket as though to draw a pistol.

"I can shoot too," declared Mrs. Brown, holding a silver purse half concealed behind her back as though it was a revolver.

The burglar made a dash for the door but Mrs. Brown caught his arm just long him back. She stood her ground until the arrival of a policeman. The policeman found a very loose and subdued burglar.

At the station house the man gave his name and said he lived in Rochester. Several skeleton keys were found in his pocket.

### The First Encyclopedia.

The honor of first bringing a dictionary of general knowledge into alphabetical order belongs to Ephraim Chambers, an English Quaker, whose taste for literature was acquired in a glovemaker's studio; he stole the time belonging to his master to compose behind the shop counter the encyclopedia published in 1727—American Review of Reviews.

### In Doubt.

"That's a curious-looking mule you're driving," remarked the man who was writhing a pine stick.

"Yassit," answered Mr. Krastus Pinkie. "He is kind o' cut'us."

"What will you take for him?"

"What if I take foh him?" Say, boss, is you referrin' to dat mule as a piece of property or an affliction?"

### The Boy and the Cigarette.

The small boy with the cigarette is like the poor, always with us. He makes his presence felt in the streets as he puffs his weed or its fag-end in lordly imitation of his elders. He ought to be repressed with a strong hand.—Exchange.

## COSTLY PIECE OF EARTHWARE.

Pennsylvania Museum Acquired Toft Dish Made About 1666.

Philadelphia.—One of the most important of the recent acquisitions to the Pennsylvania museum, in Memorial hall, is a large earthenware dish, known as a Toft dish, which was made by Thomas Toft of Staffordshire, England, about 1666, at the time of the restoration of Charles II. Toft ware, as it is generally called, is exceedingly scarce, and this is the first example that is known to have been brought to the United States.

The museum owes its acquisition to the generosity of William P. Hemsey of the Baldwin Locomotive works. The director, Dr. Barber, who is the recognized American authority on pottery, has been for a long time on the lookout



Toft Dish Given to Pennsylvania Museum.

through his agents abroad, for an authentic specimen of this early English manufacture. Some time ago he heard of a piece in possession of a London dealer, but the price demanded, \$700, was beyond the limited resources of the museum, although it was considered a reasonable price for so great a rarity. The master was held before Mr. Hemsey, who at once offered to provide the necessary sum, and the purchase was authorized.

When the director received the precious piece of earthenware from the custom house in New York he took it up to the Metropolitan museum and exhibited it to the curious officials there, and he received an offer of twice the amount that had been paid for it.

Toft dishes, which are usually about 8 inches in diameter, were produced in England before porcelain was invented, and they were considered at that time works of great merit. The decoration is made by pouring liquid clay or slip through a quill attached to a little cup; the designs being traced in the same manner as patterns in sugar loafs are applied to cakes. The Toft dish which has been procured by the museum bears five medallions, each one containing a rude portrait of Charles II, and in the central medallion are the initials R. C. for Rex Carolus—King Charles. Toft used the royalty and nobility of the period as decorative subjects for his dishes.

## NEW PRESIDENT OF PANAMA.

Senor Domingo Obaldia Elected to Succeed Amador.

Washington.—Senor Don Jose Domingo de Obaldia, who has been



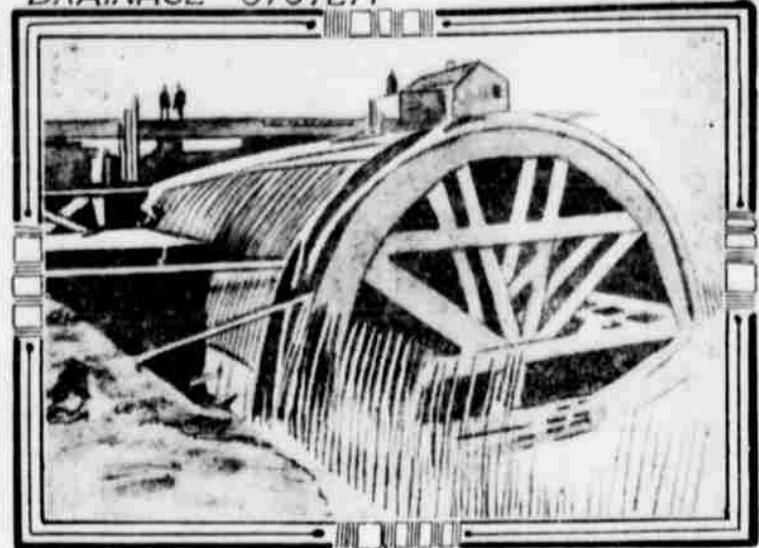
SENR DOMINGO OBALDIA

elected president of the Republic of Panama to succeed President Amador, was until lately minister from Panama to the United States, having been appointed at the creation of the republic in 1903. He is a native of Panama, 63 years old and was in Bogota and in the United States until his twenty-fourth year, when he returned to Panama and became connected with the large business interests of his father. Senor Obaldia is one of the largest stock raisers in Central America and exports horses, cattle and mules. He was governor of Panama when it belonged to Colombia and is a conservative in politics.

Senor Obaldia defeated President Amador's candidate for president, Secretary Arias. Obaldia was Amador's choice until, when acting as president in the absence of Amador, he instituted policies which estranged his chief.

## BIGGEST SEWER IN WORLD

ST LOUIS BUILDING AN IMMENSE DRAINAGE SYSTEM



The big sewers of Paris have gained a world-wide notoriety; sewers in which the criminal classes could hide and escape detection, and big enough to permit flat-bottomed boats sailing through them. But now one American city at least has, or rather has in the course of construction, a sewer which far exceeds in size anything which Paris possesses, or any other city of the world, for that matter. It is big enough to permit a big tug to steam through its bricked and cemented walls. It is known as the Harlem Creek sewer and will be 29 feet in diameter in its largest section and from 27 feet to 18 feet in the smaller sections, the main section and the two branches measuring over four miles in extent and the whole draining more than 6,000 acres of land. There are longer sewers than this, and there are drainage systems, not sewers, which drain much larger tracts of land, but there is no sewer in the world that combines such great size with extent of area drained, and there is no city drainage system in the world that in any way compares with it.

To the average person a 29-foot sewer means nothing at all, because the usual man or woman knows little about sewers, but to engineers and contractors it means something stupendous in sewer construction. Sixteen feet has heretofore been the extreme size for city sewers, and most sewers are from 10 to 12 feet in diameter, with branch lines very much smaller, in some cases only a foot or 18 inches in diameter. When these figures are considered and compared with the dimensions of the Harlem Creek sewer, even the uninitiated can fail to see what an enormous work the city of St. Louis has in hand in its new sewer. The Harlem Creek sewer is nearly twice as large in its internal diameter as any other sewer yet built. From its lowest point to the top of the arch it is more than twice the height of a high-ceilinged room and almost three times the height of the ordinary modern ceilings. From the surface of the water when the sewer runs at ordinary capacity to the top of the arch is 19 feet 6 inches, or half again the height of the ordinary room. Gasoline launches could sail up this sewer without difficulty at any stage of water, and when the flow is low a tugboat would have no trouble in steaming from one end of the large section to the other. If the bottom of the sewer were level, a loaded van could drive through it and still have room to spare at the top.

The Harlem Creek sewer was begun July 13, 1906, and Sewer Commissioner Fardwell expects to have the public section, or that section running from Florissant avenue to the river, completed within another year. The entire system will probably not be finished for three or four years more, and all the connecting lines will not be laid till the section drained becomes more thickly populated. The popular idea of large sewers has been gained from the lurid pictures which Victor Hugo and Eugene Sue have drawn of the sewers of Paris, and from what the many less illustrious writers have said of the sewers of London and other European cities. London has the most complicated and longest sewer system owing to its great extent and enormous population, but there is no city in Europe, as there are none of any size in America except St. Louis which does not have to treat the sewage before disposing of it.

The elaborate pumping stations which the sewer departments of New York and Chicago are obliged to maintain for sanitary reasons cost those cities thousands of dollars every year, while the treating plants in European sewer systems are the most important and expensive parts of the systems. St. Louis has none of this to contend with, having unexcelled natural drainage with a river into which to empty its sewage, which is of such a character that it purifies itself without artificial assistance. The sewage problem is, say engineers, one of the simplest with which St. Louis has to deal; for it practically solves itself. Therefore it is all the more remarkable that that city should be able to boast of the largest sewer in existence. In most instances great difficulties have to be overcome, give due to great results, but here is a case of a great result without the stimulus of a great difficulty, and the city should take all the more credit for its enterprise on that account.

The sewer question is a wonderfully interesting one from other standpoints than that of sanitation. Though supposed to be absolutely a modern subject, it is one of the most ancient of problems and was studied as long ago as the time of Solomon. The oldest sewer in the world was built by King Solomon and extended from within the walls of Jerusalem to a point outside the walls, where the waste which it carried was used to fertilize the vineyards and gardens of the farmers of the immediate neighborhood. According to recent discoveries made in the vicinity, it is believed that this sewer, which was a tunnel 7½ feet in diameter, built of masonry, was abandoned because a spring which supplied water to a portion of the city was diverted from its course when the sewer was constructed. The pool of Bethesda, the healing waters of which were earnestly sought by the ill and infirm in Biblical times, is believed to be the inside terminus of this old sewer, and the troubling of the waters which was the signal for those who watched to descend into the pool is supposed to be due to the periodical bubbling of the spring beneath.

In ancient Rome sewers were considered of as much importance as aqueducts. The oldest sewers, or cloacae, were built by Tarquinus Priscus, about 260 B. C., while the later, the Cloaca Maxima, was in use 26 centuries and was only abandoned within the last ten years. The Cloaca Maxima was ten feet six inches wide and 14 feet high in the interior, with a solid masonry wall on all sides. The intercepting sewers were open channels five feet wide, and are described as large enough for a loaded hay-cart to drive through without difficulty.

In ancient Rome only the streets and the public buildings were connected with the sewers, and householders had, therefore, to carry waste water and garbage into the street and throw it into the open sewers. In recent years the municipality of Rome has installed a fine modern sewer system, and the abundant supply of water which the aqueducts of the ancient Romans have provided renders the flushing of the sewers an easy matter, and gives the city one of the most satisfactory drainage systems in Europe.

When the United States consul at Marseilles wrote to the mayor of the city for permission to make investigations with regard to the disposal of garbage, sewage and other city wastes, for his government, he was answered in this wise:

"Garbage is one of the finest dishes of the place. Well cooked and nicely prepared, as they do it in the country, it is something exquisite."

As an example of Gallicizing of the "American" language, this is a gem. As a hint to American sanitary officers, it is more, it is sublime. With its new garbage reduction plant and its splendid new sewers, St. Louis bids fair to soon dispose of its offensive refuse so effectively that the people of the city will be like the mayor of Marseilles, unable to distinguish between the thing, garbage, and another thing, the name of which it resembles, cabbage, and in another quarter of a century may make the same reply if asked the same question.